

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 159265

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 11820 ACTION STATE CINCPAC JULY 22, 1974

QUOTE S E C R E T BANGKOK 11820

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJECT: US INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO.

1. AT THE POLISH VIN D'HONNEUR TODAY I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN. I ASKED HIM FOR A MEETING LATER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS MY GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO THE SUSPENSION OF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO, TO WHICH HE AGREED. HE THEN MENTIONED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING OF THE RTG CABINET TOMORROW, JULY 23, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE A BRIEF REPORT TO THE CABINET OF WHAT THIS REACTION WAS. I TOLD HIM IN A WORD THAT MY GOVERNMENT WAS UNHAPPY. I REITERATED WHAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO HIM CONCERNING THE FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY WHICH MADE IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE FROM OTHER BASES IN THE AREA. I ALSO STRESSED THE LONG-RANGE IMPORTANCE OF THESE RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES TO THAILAND. I ALSO REITERATED THAT WE HAD, OF COURSE, COMPLIED WITH THE REQUEST MADE BY THE RTG.

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2. CHARUNPHAN MENTIONED HE HAD A PRESS INTERVIEW DURING THE MORNING AND THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED REGARDING THE US REACTION TO THE RTG DEMARCHE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE THAI PRESS THAT WE HAD COMPLIED WITH THE RTG REQUEST. HE SAID, SOMEWHAT WISTFULLY, THAT HE HOPED THE REPORTING WOULD BE ACCURATE.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY I MET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI AND ASKED HIM TO JOIN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE MEETING HE PLANNED TO HOLD AT THE MAF LATER THIS WEEK. CHARTCHAI AGAIN TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AND WE WOULD EVENTUALLY GET THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT.

4. FINALLY, I ALSO SAW THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR AT THIS OCCASION AND THANKED HIM FOR INFORMING US ABOUT THE POSITION HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING WITH REGARD TO INQUIRIES ON THE USE OF THE COCOS ISLAND FOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN BY FRIENDLY POWERS. I TOLD HIM IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO US IF THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD PASS THIS GUIDANCE PERSONALLY TO THE RTG FOREIGN MINISTER. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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